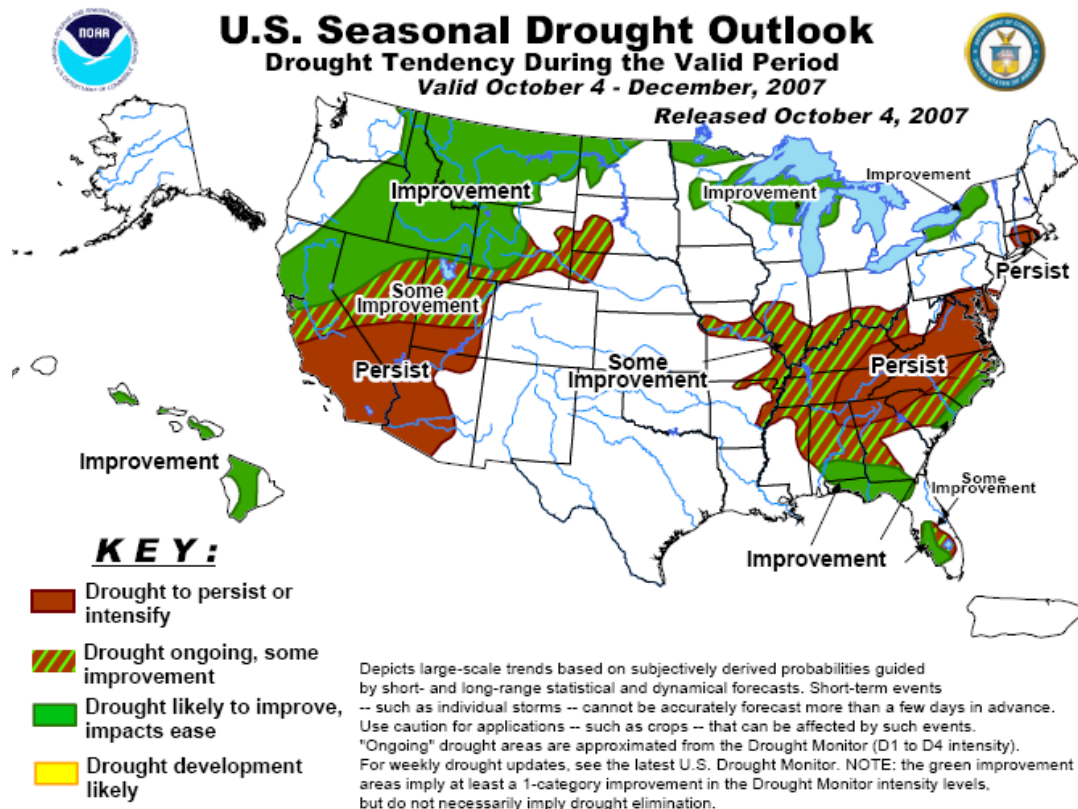


# A message from the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors

We are in a drought and the Seasonal Drought Outlook published by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration projects the drought will persist or intensify over the next few months. According to the National Weather Service rainfall for our area for this year is more than 40% below normal. On average we receive 42-inches of rainfall per year, but we have only received 20-inches of rain to date. Now is the time to conserve water regardless of whether you are on a private well or on Town water to prevent critical shortages in the coming months, if this drought persists.



The majority of residents in Culpeper get their water from private wells. The yield of these wells is highly variable based upon the surrounding geology and depth of the well. As a general rule, the shallower wells will be affected first during a drought as the water table drops because of pumping and lack of rainfall to recharge the aquifer. Water conservation can extend the life of your well. Town residents get their water from Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake whose water levels are dropping because of consumption by residents and businesses in

Town and reduced rainfall and stream flow. Conservation in Town will delay mandatory water restrictions and extend the Town's water supply.

Surface water and groundwater supplies typically recharge during the winter months because of reduced evaporation, cooler temperatures, and reduced water uptake by dormant trees and plants, but NOAA is forecasting this drought will persist or intensify over the next few months. This winter recharge is important because it raises water levels in wells that supply most Culpeper residents, and replenishes groundwater that provides the base flow for streams and rivers that fill Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake during dry periods. If this drought persists as projected during the winter recharge period, we will begin next summer with reduced water supplies.

Water conservation now will make a big difference in the coming spring and summer, if this drought persists. Here are a few ways you can conserve water to put us in the best position next summer and extend the life of your well.

1. Eliminate or reduce watering outdoor plants and irrigation.
2. Mulch! Mulch! Mulch! Mulching plants and shrubs will retain moisture, reduce watering requirements and help your plants survive the drought.
3. Do not water your lawn. Grasses are very resilient and will rebound when the rains return.
4. Wash your car at a public car wash that recycles water.
5. Fix leaky faucets, hoses and pipes.
6. Check your toilet for leaks by putting some food coloring in the tank and see if it appears in the bowl. If it leaks, repair it immediately. A leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day. You can also place a plastic bottle filled with water in the tank, but make sure it does not interfere with the proper operation of the flush mechanism.
7. Replace your old toilet with a new low flow toilet. Some old toilets use 3-6 gallons per flush. New low flow toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush.
8. Install low flow shower heads and faucet aerators which can be found in your local hardware stores and take shorter showers.
9. Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can cut water and energy requirements for washing laundry by 50%.
10. Use your washing machine and dishwasher only for full loads.